

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
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CHAIRMAN

SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES
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INSULAR AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
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WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4601

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WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1317 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4261

DISTRICT OFFICES:

FREDERICKSBURG OFFICE
3504 PLANK ROAD, SUITE 203
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22407
(540) 548-1086

PENINSULA OFFICE
4904-B GEORGE WASHINGTON
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
YORKTOWN, VA 23692
(757) 874-6687

MIDDLE PENINSULA OFFICE
508 CHURCH LANE
TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560
(804) 443-0668

Mr. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room: 8-B201
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90,
Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Released: Nov. 19, 2012)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for taking on a tough and controversial task – overhauling the Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation and creating the Connect America Fund (CAF). It is vital unserved and underserved areas across the country that your reforms succeed. While the FCC has set aside \$600 million to invest in new broadband deployment during 2012 and 2013, much of this capital remains on the sidelines and the wait for broadband is stretching on.

As the FCC has noted, more than 80 percent of Americans without broadband live in those rural areas served by price cap companies. That amounts to more than 18 million people. CAF Phase I was designed to bring rapid broadband expansion in these areas, and if CAF-I lags, so will broadband deployment.

The FCC's November 19th further notice (FNPRM) states that the goal for the FCC should be to refine the CAF rules to enable price cap carriers to bring service to eligible unserved households as quickly as possible. I hope that you will consider allowing the FCC to proceed with a second round of CAF projects in 2013 that fully utilizes the \$600 million set aside for this important work during 2012 and 2013.

Broadband is an economic driver that provides rural Americans access to educational opportunities, remote healthcare applications, and high-speed wireless service. Applications relying on a robust broadband infrastructure are now essential in agricultural markets, for emerging small businesses, and for consumer access to online retailers. It is vital that these funds are rapidly invested in broadband infrastructure that will help attract more businesses and jobs to

these areas. We cannot continue to leave these Americans behind.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Jamie Miller in my office should you need additional information.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Robert